

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Inventors : TOURAPIS, Alexandros, et al.**  
**Serial No. : 10/569,168**  
**Filed : Feb. 22, 2006**  
**Title : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MINIMIZING NUMBER OF  
REFERENCE PICTURES USED FOR INTER-CODING**  
**Examiner : BAYARD, Emmanuel**  
**Art Unit : 2611**  
**Conf. No. : 1709**

**Preliminary Amendment with  
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Under 37 CFR 1.114**

**Mail Stop: RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Sir:

In a Request for Continue Examination (RCE) filed with a Petition to Withdraw from Issue in the above-identified application, please enter the following amendments and remarks as follows. A supplemental IDS is included with the present amendment. Please charge the fee for the RCE, and any other fees due in connection with this filing, to deposit account 07-0832.

**Listing and Amendments to the Claims** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.